CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A substantially purified integral membrane protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or fragments thereof.

2. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence encoding the integral membrane protein of claim 1.

3. A polynucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2.

4. A composition comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2.

5. An isolated and purified polynucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2 or variants thereof.

6. A polynucleotide sequence which is complementary to SEQ ID NO:2 or variants thereof.

7. A composition comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 6.

8. An expression vector containing the polynucleotide sequence of claim 2.

9. A host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

10. A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or fragments thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

a) culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions suitable for the

expression of the polypeptide; and

b) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a substantially purified human IMP-2 protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

12. A purified antibody which binds specifically to the polypeptide of claim 1.

13. A purified agonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.

14. A purified antagonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antagonist of claim 14.

16. A method for treating liver disease comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 13.

17. A method for detection of polynucleotides encoding human IMP-2 in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

a) hybridizing the polynucleotide of claim 2 to nucleic acid material of a biological sample, the

b) detecting said hybridization complex, wherein the presence of said complex correlates with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding human IMP-2 in said biological sample.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein before hybridization, the nucleic acid

material of the biological sample is amplified by the polymerase chain reaction.